ponds at Jaduguda are not contaminated due to the operation of Uranium mine and mill of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. at Jaduguda. The waste produced in the operation of the mine and mill is well contained and the effluent is recycled and re-treated in the effluent treatment plant before any discharge. There is no spread of radioactivity into the environment UCIL monitors any effect of radioactivity on the employees and its effect in the area around the Uranium mine and mill at Jaduguda. An Environmental Survey laboratory of Health Physics Unit of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is functioning in Jaduguda since the inception of the company. Scientists of this laboratory collect various samples of soil/water on a continuous basis and measure the radioactivity level. They also continuously measure natural background radiation level at different locations over a radius of around 35 Km. taking Jaduguda as a centre. In all 30 locations are covered. All the data indicate that the radiation level at Jaduguda is in the same range as at the other locations around this area.

AERB report on Kaiga Nuclear plant Accident

1482. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Atomic energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on investigations into the collapse of a concrete dome at the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in May last year;

(b) if so, what are its findings and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to countenance such situation arising in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The final report of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board on investigation into the incident of delamination of a portion of inner containment dome at the Kaiga Atomic Power Project in May, 1994 is yet to be received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. has taken up re-engineering and rehabilitation of the dome taking into consideration all probable factors. The recommendations of the investigating Committees will be taken into account before finalising the reconstruction of the Kaiga-1 dome and also in subsequent units.

Food irradiation technology

1483. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has embarked on an abmitious programme to promote food irradiation technology on a large scale;

(b) if so, broad features of this programme and the food products which it will cover; and

(c) in what manner it is proposed to commercialise this technology within the country and for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Department of Atomic Energy is cooperating with industries in the commercial exploitation of food irradiation technology which is available with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, have been amended to permit sale of irradiated onions, potatoes and spices